

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed June 8, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-18 were previously pending in this application. The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as purportedly being unpatentable over Kurhdt (4,689,622). The Office Action objected to claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, and 14-18 as depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, Applicant has rewritten claims 3, 6, 10, 13, 15, and 17 in independent form, including all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to these claims is respectfully requested. Claims 4, 7, and 16 depend from independent claim 3 and claims 11, 14, and 18 depend from independent claim 10. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to these claims is respectfully requested.

Additionally, by this amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right and, indeed, intends to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

All outstanding issues should now be resolved and the application as presented is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application should now be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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